

Predators, Ranchers, Government, and Wildlife Advocates: A Role for ENGOs in an Effective Conservation Framework

Jim Pissot

Executive Director, Defenders of Wildlife Canada, PO Box 40001, Canmore, AB T1W 1G2
< jpissot@defenders.org >, Ph/Fax: call first: 403-678-0016. www.defenders.org/canada (under construction)

Effective conservation of species at risk requires a number of critical elements, including a clear regulatory framework, adequate government funding, sound scientific findings, enforcement, incentives for private landowners, and innovative partnerships among government, landowners and conservation organizations. Conservation of predators can be particularly challenging, requiring, among other things, both tolerance and proactive stewardship by ranchers and other landowners in predator country. In the U.S. Defenders of Wildlife offers assistance and funding to perform cost-share and planning work with ranchers, sheep producers and others who have conflicts with endangered wolves and grizzly bears in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, New Mexico and Arizona. In addition, Defenders has paid more than US\$300,000 since 1989 to compensate for the loss of livestock to wolves and grizzlies. These programs have increased public acceptance of predators, increased rancher tolerance, and pioneered new stewardship techniques by ranchers and other landowners. Defenders of Wildlife Canada is initiating similar pro-active conservation projects in southwestern Alberta. We discuss conditions necessary for effective partnerships, the mechanics and results of the U.S. program, and progress to date in Canada.